

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 041341Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8662

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION PARIS OECD

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV NO

SUBJECT: TWO NORWEGIAN CABINET APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED AND APPROVED  
AT LABOR PARTY "LITTLE CONVENTION"

1. MRS. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND WILL FILL THE GAP IN THE  
CABINET LEFT BY THE DEATH OF SONJA LUDVIGSEN LAST JUNE.  
SHE WILL BE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, REPLACING TOR HALVORSEN,  
WHO, IN TURN, REPLACES THE LATE MRS. LUDVIGSEN AS SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS MINISTER. THIS SHIFT WAS PROPOSED BY PRIME  
MINISTER BRATTELI AND APPROVED BY THE LABOR PARTY NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 30-31, BEFORE BEING MADE PUBLIC.  
THE DECISION PRESERVED THE RATIO OF WOMEN IN THE CABINET  
AT 3 OUT OF 15 AND DEFLATED THE RUMORS THAT MORE FAR  
REACHING CABINET CHANGES MIGHT COME OUT OF THE NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING. ANOTHER IMPORTANT SHIFT WAS ANNOUNCED,  
BUT IN THE LABOR PARTY ITSELF, NOT IN THE GOVERNMENT. IT  
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WAS REVEALED THAT PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY RONALD BYE WILL

NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION AT THE PARTY CONVENTION  
NEXT APRIL 22-23.

2. HALVORSEN IS AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG TRADE UNION LEADER  
ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION  
FEDERATION (LO) OF WHICH HE IS SECOND SECRETARY AND A LEADING  
CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED TOR ASPENGREN AS LO PRESIDENT WHEN  
THE LATTER RETIRES IN 1977. HE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT  
CHANCE TO GAIN FURTHER EXPERIENCE AND EARN MORE LAURELS  
IN THE IMPORTANT SOCIAL MINISTRY. HE WILL ALSO HAVE TO  
HANDLE A POLITICAL HOT POTATO-- THE ABORTION ISSUE. EXTEN-  
SIVE BIO INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED.

3. MRS. BRUNDTLAND, DAUGHTER OF FORMER DEFENSE AND SOCIAL  
MINISTER GUDMUND HARLEM, WILL BE THE YOUNGEST MINISTER AT  
35. LONG AN ACTIVE LABOR PARTY MEMBER, BEGINNING AT AGE  
SEVEN WITH THE PARTY'S CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION, MRS.  
BRUNDTLAND IS CONSIDERED PART OF THE PARTY'S MODERATE "SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC" MAINSTREAM. SHE WAS ONE OF 12 FOUNDERS OF A  
NEW LABOR PARTY UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION AFTER THE  
"SOCIAL STUDENT LEAGUE" WAS EXPELLED FROM THE LABOR PARTY  
FOR BECOMING TOO RADICAL. SHE HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THE  
ABORTION ON DEMAND CAMPAIGN AND HAS MORE RECENTLY BECOME  
AN ACTIVE "NEW FEMINIST". SHE RECEIVED HER MEDICAL DEGREE  
IN OSLO IN 1963, SPENT A YEAR AT HARVARD OBTAINING A  
MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, WORKED IN THE HYGIENE  
OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY'S HEALTH DIRECTORATE AND  
THEN IN THE PEDIATRIC SECTIONS OF THE TWO MAJOR HOSPITALS  
IN OSLO UNTIL HER APPOINTMENT AS AN "ASSISTANT CHIEF DOCTOR"  
OF THE OSLO HEALTH COUNCIL'S SCHOOL PHYSICIANS' DIVISION,  
WITH AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING. SHE HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN  
ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO DO RESEARCH ON CHANGING GROWTH  
PATTERNS AND SHIFTS IN THE AGE OF FIRST MENSTRUATION AMONG  
GIRLS. SHE IS CHARACTERIZED AS CLEAR, ARTICULATE, REFLEC-  
TIVE AND SELF-CONFIDENT. AN ATTRACTIVE MOTHER OF FOUR  
CHILDREN, SHE IS MARRIED TO RESEARCH SCHOLAR ARNE OLAV  
BRUNTLAND, 38, OF THE RESPECTED NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY  
INSTITUTE IN OSLO. HE STUDIED AT HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL  
UNDER DR. KISSINGER.

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4. BYE, A MODERATE OR EVEN RIGHT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRAT  
WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY SPECTRUM, WAS NOT EXPECTED TO  
CONTINUE AS SECRETARY GENERAL IF REIULF STEEN, WITH WHOM  
HIS RELATIONS ARE REPORTEDLY NOT TOO CORDIAL, SHOULD BE  
ELECTED PARTY CHAIRMAN AT NEXT SPRING'S PARTY CONVENTION.  
BYE'S POSITION HAS ALSO BEEN WEAKENED BY THE CONTINUING  
DOWNTURN IN LABOR'S GALLUP POLL STRENGTH. HOWEVER, THE

ANNOUNCEMENT, THAT HE WOULD STEP DOWN NEXT SPRING CAME AS  
A SURPRISE TO MANY LABOR PARTY STALWARTS.  
BUCHANAN

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